THE
WRESTLING FLYER
NEWSLETTER

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INTERVIEW
BUDDY LANDELL

JC: How did you first break into professional wrestling and what were your initial feelings about the business?

BL: Well, I had always been a wrestling fan. I broke in around the first part of '79, was 17 years old. I was like the yuppies that have come out of the closet in the decade of the 80s. I was a wrestling fan as far as watching it on TV, it was a religion to me, watching it on TV. I liked it. My mind thinks like a wrestler, the angles that were done, etc. I was always fascinated, the same way I like soap operas, you know. I think to myself, hey, if they bring this guy and this girl back together, man, then I'll watch it the next day and the next day to find out. My mind is different, I have a creative mind. That's why I've been so successful, psychology came easy to me for this business. I could think and use my mind and I was really creative, I was an artist, I was a sculptor. A lot of people have to work so hard at wrestling, but I never really did that much because it came so easy to me. But anyway, my sister's girlfriend was the camera director here in Knoxville. They had wrestling at the high school I was going to and I went there one night and she took me backstage. She introduced me to Malenko, Orton Jr., Garvin, Savage, Roop. I started training the next day. I was trained by all those guys. And I went with All-Star Wrestling.

JC: What are the different things this business has taken you through or how has this business changed you?

BL: Well, I have been through so many stages of my life. I was 17 years old and I was driving with guys 30 and 40 and in bars and doing this and that, things that I wouldn't be really proud to say that I did. But back then it was a gas to you, you know, just being one of the boys. It showed me life because I got to go out. I was in the coal-mining towns, I saw poor people. I didn't come from a privileged background, I came from a modest background, middle class. And I always thought that these people that came up in the little towns of Kentucky, that they worked really hard for their money. And I always strived to give the people their money's worth, that is always a big thing to me. I don't know why because when I was with Turner last time, these guys like Sting, Luger, they knew they were going to make $800,000 whether there was anyone out there or there wasn't anyone out there. And it would be like, 'Let's give them 2 minutes and catch the airplane and let's get back home.' When I broke in, the harder you worked, the more the crowd came up the next week. It was a weekly situation, instead of a national deal. When I broke in, I was taught respect. For the first couple of years, I didn't even open my mouth in the dressing room. What I had to say wasn't important to these older guys, they did not want to hear me. For the first year that I worked with Randy Savage in the ICW, I didn't ride to one match in a car. I rode in the back of a ring truck. Me and the midgets, we set the ring up, wrestled, tore the ring down, and rode home. I wanted to strive to be the best that I could be at what I was doing. But the guys that break in nowadays, they have no respect for this business. It's made me see rich people, poor people, George Bush watched us wrestle in the Sam Houston Coliseum, I've met rock stars, movie stars, I've lived in mansions, I've lived in penthouses, and I've lived in outhouses. I've seen just about every aspect.

JC: What was it like for you at such a young age to be involved with this business?

BL: I was 24 years old when I worked with Ric Flair in '85. The record can be checked, we broke Elvis Presley's records in many of the coliseums that we were in. We were drawing a million dollars a week in the short time that we had our angle. We never had any physical confrontation on TV, I said, I'm the Nature Boy, he said, 'I'm the Nature Boy,' and they put us in the coliseum, we starting selling everywhere out. It was my drug problem that caused us that angle and millions of dollars.

JC: What kind of problems or trouble did you run into?

BL: I think some things stem from my childhood that I'm 31 years old and just now finding stuff out about my childhood. A lot of people use that as a cop-out and you can use it as a cop-out if you want to continue to keep on living in drugs and feeling sorry for yourself. But I'm using it now as an avenue for therapy to make me understand why that I've been so destructive. I've had the world given to me on a silver platter and I should be a multi-millionaire right now and I'm not. I did not only hurt myself, I hurt promoters, I cost Ric Flair a lot of money, J.J. Dillon, Baby Doll, Tully Blanchard, Magnum, Dusty, Crockett, you know, I was a key factor in that situation. Of course the business didn't go bankrupt because of me, or anybody else for that matter. But they were counting on me and I let them down, my family counted on me and I let them down, I've let everybody down through the years. The good thing about it is that through this whole thing, this drug nightmare, thank God that I've never lost my talent. Vince McMahon don't deny my talent, Bill Watts don't deny my talent, it's just, 'Can we trust him?' Nowadays, they would rather go with a novice and give him a chance and know that he's going to be there every night, rather than to bring somebody in that could probably be a major superstar and have this time and money put into him, and then say, well, "No-Show Budro." I believe that you have to grow up and say, hey man, I am the cause of my problems. Bobby Eaton told me something a long time ago, he says, 'Buddy, everybody don't get up every morning and think about how they're going to screw over Buddy Landell.' We have to take responsibility for our actions. I've been going to church through all this whole thing and I've been learning a lot about my spiritual life. We have a choice, right or wrong. We can choose blessings or we can choose curses. It's like, do I go into this bar or don't I go into this bar? Do I do this cocaine or do I don't do it?

JC: How did you first get the name "Nature Boy?"

BL: In 1983, I was just your ho-hum babyface. Tom Renesko asked me if I'd bleach my hair and come to Puerto Rico. So I bleached my hair and went to Puerto Rico. Flair and Piper were doing shots over there and Flair kept on coming over and watching me and it was the first time I had ever been a heel. I started not liking wrestling because being a babyface just wasn't my gig. But being a heel, it just came so natural. I have a gift, a way with people on a one-on-one situation in an arena and on a microphone. I was surprised how quick I got my love back for wrestling because I kind of had gotten stale.

JC: When you just mentioned about how easy it was for you to be a heel, was that kind of a way to let out all of your frustrations and problems in your life? Did you find that you could use a lot of those frustrations you had in your role as a heel character, is that why it was so easy, was it a way to let out all those problems?

BL: Well, yeah. I met Motley Crue here in Knoxville and I got to stay with Tommy Lee for a couple days, he's their drummer, they're real big wrestling fans. He told me the same thing about him playing drums, he gets to take his frustrations out beating and beating with the drums. Yeah, you do, you get to take your frustrations out a lot. It was one of the only ways to let out my problems. Getting back to the thing with Flair, it's something that I have to live with night and day. Flair had already given me the name "Nature Boy," and after the thing with Flair ended, Watts wanted me to go down to learn from Eddie Graham because he was Bill Watts' mentor. I was in San Antonio, TX, Ric Flair had just worked a 60 minute broadway with Kerry Von Erich, which was like pulling teeth with pliers for poor Ric. He took me out that night and he asked me if I'd like to come to Charlotte and work with him. February 4, 1985, Arn Anderson and I started the same day in Charlotte, NC. I went from having nothing to owning homes, four new cars, in a couple of months. It blew my mind and I started really thinking, hey, I really am the "Nature Boy." You do start really thinking that. Everywhere you go, people know you, you go to the bank with $4,000 checks, it's hard to really describe the feeling, but it's a feeling of you can't be touched. So I started no-showing, into the party life, doing drugs, getting paranoid, no-showing. I'd miss a $40,000 Coliseum shot, but I'd rent a limousine to drive 800 miles to make a $3,000 spot show, that's just how far gone I was at that period of time in my life. Jim Crockett told me on his private jet one night, 'I'd fire you, but I'm going to figure you out first.' I had the money to do it, it wasn't nothing to me. I thought that I was Ric Flair, man. I idolize Ric, I worship the ground he walks on. And the feeling is mutual, Ric has a lot of admiration for me, too. I'm sure he thinks that I'm an idiot for throwing the whole world away a couple times. I've told Ric to his face many times, I idolize you, man. And he told me, 'You're Elvis to me.' I thought he was working me. I said you're ribbing and he goes, 'Buddy, I think you're great and I got a lot of respect, you're my idol, too.' And I went, 'God.' I don't know if he was working me or he just trying to make me feel good. But finally, I just got into the drugs and I was just wild. I had a pistol and I was going up and down the road, shooting my gun. Crockett and Flair pulled me in there and they said, 'We got to take this gun away from you.' What happened was, there was something that happened in Ric's personal life, it was medical, somebody close in his family had a medical problem, and he was going to take 3 months off and they were going to put the NWA world belt on me. The day that they fired me, we were going to do the angle on TV. I had a plane ticket, I don't know why I didn't fly, but I drove from Charlotte to Atlanta. I was down the road in a motel with Black Bart and Bart said, 'Come on, let's go to TV.' And I said, no man, I ain't going. I took a couple of valiums and just crashed. Dusty called up, Crockett called up, and I just hung up on both of them. Finally, when I did show up and walked in, I was the National Heavyweight Champion, Dusty walked right up to me and said, 'Give us your belt, you ain't got a job no more, you're fired.' To be honest with you, I could have gotten my job

back that next day cause I had a meeting with them down at the offices, but I had an attitude problem cause I thought that I was "Nature Boy" Buddy Landell. My wife is glad that I got fired because being a drug addict is one thing, but being able to support your habit financially's devastating. You know, being able to go to the bank and get $1,800 out and get an ounce of cocaine, that's pretty wild. Long-term financially, it's cost me millions of dollars. My wife was glad that I was fired because she thought that I would have wound up dead somewhere, she thinks it was a blessing in disguise.

JC: Going back to that specific point where you made a choice of staying in your hotel rather than going to the TV and then you lost your job. What were you thinking when you made that decision that has cost you a lot of things?

BL: You know a lot of guys are doing the same thing to Bill Watts. When Jim Herd was running WCW, if Lex Luger didn't have a first-class airplane ticket and a limousine waiting on him, why by God, he didn't show up. I got into that mentality that I was a superstar, that I was to be catered to. Like they should come get me, but I just didn't want to go. It was self-inflicted and it was nobody's fault but my own. I try to use it as therapy. For a long time, I used it to bash myself. I can't answer why that I didn't go, why I would stay out all night and not come home to my family, I just can't answer questions like that. It's stupidity if you want to sum it up in one word.

JC: Do you think a lot of the problems you had stemmed from a certain aspect of the business?

BL: Well, for a long time, I blamed promoters, other wrestlers, I blamed everybody but me. The Buddy Landell scenario covers a lot more guys than just me in this business. It's like being an alcoholic, it's like being a drug addict, it's like being molested as a child, or whatever. I think going through the process of being healed, you go through a process of denial. Being in a bar never brought me a good time in the world, it just got me broke. You've got to look back at your situation and say, hey, I caused my problems. Wrestling was good to me. It took me out of Knoxville at a young age, put me in a worldwide spotlight and I messed it up myself. I was bad for wrestling, wrestling wasn't bad for me.

JC: How has the business changed since you started out?

BL: A long time ago, being in the wrestling business, we all rode together each night, we fought for each other if a fight broke out, there was camaraderie. There isn't that anymore. Wrestling always was a business for promoters. But the guys had a little love for each other. When you work for a guy like Bill Watts. You knew exactly what your position was going in. You knew what match you were on, you knew how high you were going to get in the organization. If he had great plans for you, he would let you know. But you wasn't going to go in there and run a rug over Bill Watts and steal somebody else's thunder. That wasn't the way that it was. Nowadays, guys are stabbing each other in the back, if you do something, somebody tells. It's just everybody's so stinking job scared and I relate it to them not having the talent to cover the ground they walk on. I think Jim Herd pampered a lot of guys. Bill Watts is the greatest thing that ever happened to this business. I think the guys ought to make more money. I liked the money Jim Herd was paying, but he paid some guys way too much money. I don't begrudge anybody for making a lot of money, but I think it should have been more even. Instead of one guy making $300 a night and another guy making $5,000 a night. I think that the business is going through a phase. When I broke into the business in 1979, there was like twenty territories. As of late, there was only two major ones and Jarrett. There's no new guys breaking into the business. To break into this business and be a good polished worker, you have to work consistently every night, and there's no where to get consistent work. Jarrett knows that, that's why he pays guys $200, $300 a week. There's Tony Anthony's working over there that will work for $40 a night and not open their mouths, and it makes it harder for other guys who want to come in and work. The worst problem in this business is the guys. If they would just have a little bit of backbone and stand up.

JC: Do you see that changing?... What future do you see?

BL: Let me make a prediction for the future. Atlanta is going down. Bill Watts is either going to buy Atlanta or open up Mid-South Sports, that's my prediction. And this will happen within the next year. When Jim Crockett was bought out by Turner, his clause was up in 1993. He'll open the Carolinas back up, it's going to go back to regional promotions. When that happens, I'm sure Dusty will probably go back down to Florida and reopen Florida. I'm sure that Verne might open back up. That's why Jarrett has been there for so many years, Jarrett could sell out every night, but he doesn't do that. He lets it get hot and then he cools it off on purpose. If you consistently take money out of towns, it's like raping them and economically, it's murder. So it's got to go back to the way it was. It's going to go back to the guys that can work, the Van Hammers ain't going to be able to get a job, and I'm not knocking Van Hammer, I'm just using him as a, I call it a spade of spade, when it comes to my business. Guys that can't work aren't going to be able to get jobs, except for underneath. A lot of guys are going to get their feelings hurt when this thing breaks and the guys that can work are going to be on top again. Vince McMahon will always be around, Vince is smart, he might go regional, he might cut back a little bit, but I think it's going to strengthen wrestling again.

JC: Do you think that this is the thing that can turn this business around?

BL: I personally like Ross Perot, I wouldn't vote for him

for president of the United States, but he's got all the answers to the questions. It's going to take guys like a Ross Perot, which is a Bill Watts. This country needs what wrestling needs, it needs some foundation. Like it says in the Bible, if a man builds his house on sand, it's going to crumble, but if he builds it on a good, strong foundation, then when the storm comes, it's going to withstand. I'm 31 years old, Flair's about 44-45, I've got another good ten years to make money. If promoters open up regionally, they are going to have to take guys like me that can work and can talk. Guys like me, Arn Anderson, Ricky Morton, Jake Roberts, guys that can walk and talk. You've got guys that work, Bobby Eaton's the greatest worker in the business, it's not that he can't talk, he's just not comfortable talking on TV. Then there's guys who can talk great, and they ain't the greatest worker in the world, Junkyard Dog. But the combination of both those talents, are few and far between.

JC: Do you think that people still look at you and call you a "Nature Boy" ripoff?

BL: Tom Renesko was the one that gave me the idea. Ric Flair had always been my idol. It just so happens that when I bleached my hair, I kind of liked Ric. Buddy Rogers gave Flair the name "Nature Boy." And back in the mid 70s, Flair took a beating like I took -'You're not the real "Nature Boy," Buddy Rogers is.' Buddy Rogers, God rest his soul, he told me that he was a fan of mine, he told me he loved the way that I worked. He said it was ironic that through the years that he'd been in wrestling that there had only been three Nature Boys. He gave the name to Flair, Flair gave the name to me, and all three of us basically worked alike. So that was the highest compliment I think I've just about ever had in this business, both of them coming from Buddy and Flair, the two Nature Boys. I love the gimmick, but it was hard competing with Flair. Crockett wanted me to dress up like Flair, but I was wearing JC Penney suits and Flair was wearing the real thing. But like Terry Taylor told me, 'Fake it till you make it.' It was hard keeping up with Flair. Just last night, I took my little girl to the matches with me, and people say, 'You're not the real Nature Boy, you're not Ric Flair.' I love that, man, because when they stop saying that, I'm done. As long as Flair's in the spotlight, I'll never die. It's a heck of a life that I lead, I don't make the money that I used to, but I still get the notoriety everywhere I go. I don't really have to stand in lines, I sign autographs everyday. Of course, I still promote myself in a creative way when I go out. I know little things to do to get attention and to keep myself in the public eye, locally. The guy that are in the business now, there's only two major groups. And the guys that are in those major groups, they are like an elite group. It's like, 'Oh, I'm here and you're not.' I'm just throwing a name out, Scotty Flamingo is working as opposed to a Buddy Landell not working. It would be easy for them to cop an attitude and get into this star mode. Bill Watts has done a gut check down there and a lot of guys have had a rude awakening. Wrestling's kind of exciting now, I'm sitting back just watching this whole thing crumble. But it's going to go back real strong, I'm confident in that.

JC: I know you've gone through many tough, unhappy times in your career, but what are some of the happier times in your career?

BL: I guess meeting guys, meeting Flair, Watts, Junkyard Dog, Jim Crockett, Dusty Rhodes, just meeting guys. It was the same way when I met Motley Crue, Guns N Roses, I met Aerosmith, I've met movie stars, you know. It was like I walked up like I was a mark. It's a people business, man, and when you start getting in your own little world, your own mind, and start really thinking you're something big; I've learned that all the blessings in the world come from God and if you do bad, if you get into drugs, and treat people bad, and crap on your family, and if you do all of these horrible things, how is God going to bless you?

JC: Going back to that match you were to have with Buddy Rogers (scheduled match for Joel Goodhart's cancelled TWA show on 1/25/92), how disappointing was that to find out that it was cancelled. Did you see that match as a way to get your career back on the right track?

BL: It was unbelievable. Buddy Rogers was worth ten million dollars, he absolutely did not need the cash. I had know idea that Buddy Rogers knew who I was, I had met Buddy a couple times, but I never had any idea that he knew my whole history. We got on a personal level. He said, 'Buddy, you deserve another chance, I'm going to help you out.' Buddy Rogers wouldn't get in the ring with anybody. He was 72 years old. So Buddy was going to help me out. We were going into that match and the angle that we were going to do was unbelievable. It was my finish, Buddy loved it, it was going to be great, turn me babyface and Buddy was going to be my manager. We had a $16,000 advance. I was staying with Joel, I don't know what happened to Joel, what got into him. I considered him a friend, I still do. I think that he could have pulled it off, we could have had a heck of a gate, we could have had a $25,000, $30,000 house that night. I was definitely looking at that to be a major role player in getting my career back. There will be a time for it, just like there was a time in the early eighties, and when it happens again, it will happen. I've got time on my side, I'm a youth, I'm 31 years old and I've been in the business 13, 14 years.

JC: Recently, you were working with Jim Cornette's Smoky Mountain Wrestling, but then you left. What happened?

BL: I like comedy in a match, it's hard for me to take wrestling seriously. These guys are out there clowning around, can't work. I'm a comedian, I love to do comedian stuff. That's where the guys mess up at, these guys go out there and they think this is a real wrestling match, 'I'm going to go out there and wrestle this guy and get it over

with.' In this business, if you ain't got ring psychology, you're braindead. You go out there, lock up, put the babyface over with a couple highspots, heel gets the heat, babyface makes the comeback, go home. That's a match to them, they don't consider the fans whatsoever. Me, that's who I work, I don't work the match, the match is just a tool for me. To get over, the fans are the ones I work. I'm an artist, I can make them laugh, cry, spit, curse, love, hate, that's good raw talent. These guys ain't got a clue. Anyway, I was in an I quit match with Tim Horner, where the face sticks the microphone in your mouth and they say, 'Do you quit?' No, I don't quit. Well, that's what somebody else would do, but what would Buddy Landell do? So he put me in a hammerlock and then he put the microphone in my mouth and went, 'Do you quit?' And I sang, "Mooon Rivver." And then they stuck the microphone in my mouth again, and I went, 'What about them Sixers?' So I got the heat on Tim, I wrapped the microphone cord around his neck and said, 'I'm sorry, but Tim can't come to the phone right now, he's all tied up, but if you leave your name and number, The Nature Boy will get back in touch with you in about two minutes. So Jimmy (Cornette) got kind of hot at me, cut my bookings down to one shot for the month of September. And I had Jarrett calling me, Puerto Rico, and two or three other independent promoters. I was committed to Jimmy so I could not commit with anybody else cause Jimmy was paying me fairly decent, and be centrally located around here in Knoxville. He was disappointed in me and they weren't using me in the way that I thought I should be used and so I told Jimmy, let's just part. Me and Jimmy are friends, I call him, he's calls me, but that's what happened.

JC: Then you were working for Memphis, what happened there?

BL: They did the same old thing, the same thing Jarrett always does. He gets you to come over, then he wants you to work for nothing. I got my check and I go, 'Jerry, look, I can't come for this much money. And I'm driving 1200 miles. I've got a Mercedes and it gets good gas mileage, but I can't pay to come and work. He told me, 'I was talking to Vince the other day and he said if you stay straight here for a while, they'll consider bringing you up there.' I said, Jarrett, I ain't ever been to New York and if my only way to go to New York is paying to come to work here, then I guess I'll never be going to New York. Jarrett's using that place as blackmail to get to New York. He's got Dog (Junkyard) in there, and Dog's unhappy because he ain't getting paid. Butch Reed's there and he got his first check and he's ready to leave.

JC: That's the reason why the talent comes and goes there.

BL: Oh, yeah. The last time that they sold the Memphis Coliseum out was in 1986 and I was on top. Sold out two weeks in a row. That was the 13th best match of the 1980s, according to The Wrestling Observer.

JC: How is it financially working for Jarrett (Jerry)?

BL: They gave me money bor gas. It's 400 miles from here to Memphis, then it's 375 from Memphis to Louisville, then it is 250 back to Knoxville. So it's actually 1,000 miles in three days that I would drive. But, here I am, I can only say that I've changed, unless I go to work somewhere and can prove it, it's just another lie, it's just another story that Buddy's telling. But if they know that I'm getting in my car and being on time, doing good work, showing up straight, if I do this over a period of time, then maybe they'll say, 'Hey, maybe Budro's really changed, man, let's give him a shot. I was pretty smart with my money, I'm not broke, I live in a $100,000 home, got an acre of land, I've got a Mercedes that's paid for, I live a comfortable life. So I can afford to drive down to Memphis, go to Louisville and come back, it was hard though. I'm 31 years old now, I used to take a lot of, not crazy Cactus Jack bumps, but I always took a lot of hiptosses and backdrops real high. Now it's harder to make these trips. We're talking about six pots of coffee as opposed to smoking 15 joints ten years ago.

JC: How would you feel these days if you heard people talking about you like, 'Look Buddy's no-showing again, he's back into the drugs,' etc?

BL: Well, a long time ago, I guess that would have really bothered me, now... I try to do right by my family, try to do right by God, and things, believe it or not, they work out. Just like I told Jerry Jarrett, I've got an uphill battle to fight. If I get in a car and drive 400 miles and I'm in the car seven hours, I've drank six cups of coffee, I'm going to walk in looking wired. So the first thing somebody's going to say is, 'Budro's back on it.' These are the people, that are saying stuff like that, like Jeff Bowdren that will call you up and say Hi to your face and then stab you in the back. It don't bother me, it doesn't matter to me anymore. For the rest of my career, if I was to come in a suit and a tie and carry a Bible with me every night, somebody's always going to say something. There's always going to be suspicions. When you've been an abuser, you're always going to be labeled that by somebody. So what you've got to do is be strong in yourself and know yourself that you're doing right. When you've got a problem, it's a cycle that you've got to go through; just like wrestling's got to go through a cycle, we've got to admit in wrestling that we have over-saturated everything and that we have to go through a building; just like this country; but that's what I'm doing in my life right now.

This interview with Buddy Landell (William Ansor) was conducted by the editor, John Clark, via telephone from Buddy's home near Knoxville, TN, on 10/16. Buddy Landell is taking it easy right now, wrestling a few shots here and there, and is waiting for the call to get back into the professional wrestling scene. He believes if he can show the promoters and people in the business out there that he's changed, that he'll get that call for him to go back.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

WWF held a TV taping at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, IL, on 10/26 with about 4,000 fans: Tatanka beat Repo Man. Lance Cassidy wrestled Terry Taylor to a draw. Rick Martel beat John Paul and after the match, Bob Backlund ran in and made the save as Martel was beating on his opponent. Tito Santana beat Damian Demento by DQ. Marty Jannetty beat Brooklyn Brawler. Jimmy Garvin of Freebird fame came out and did a live interview as a heel, badmouthing the faces. Bam Bam Bigelow making his return as a heel (signed a two year deal) beat Joey Maggs. Earthquake beat IRS by DQ. Nailz beat Big Bossman. Bret Hart beat The Mountie. Backlund beat Skinner. Virgil beat Bam Bam Bigelow by DQ. Bret Hart beat Papa Shango. Razor Ramon beat Randy Savage by countout. Ultimate Warrior beat Nailz (sub for Flair).

WWF Superstars was taped at the 10/27 TV taping in Terre Haute, Indiana, before about 6,500 (5,000 paid) fans at the Hulman Center. They also taped matches for Saturday Night's Main Event, which FOX will air on 11/14. The following is a total rundown of the events that took place that evening: Nailz pinned Big Bossman after using Bossman's nightstick. Skinner beat Jim Powers. Tito Santana beat Louie Spicollie. Yokozuna pinned Tom Victor. In a Funeral Parlor segment for SNME, host Paul Bearer brought out Undertaker, who talked about an upcoming feud with Razor Ramon. Lance Cassidy beat Barry Horowitz. Natural Disasters beat Steve Walker & Mike Kramer in a vicious squash match. In an Intercontinental title match taped for SNME, Shawn Michaels pinned Davey Boy Smith in about 9:00 to capture the belt. The pinfall came after Bulldog attempted a superplex off the second rope, but Michaels came down on top of Davey and got the pin. Sensational Sherri was not in Michaels' corner during this match. Smith had to be helped back to the dressing room after the match, selling a back injury. Terry Taylor pinned Joey Maggs. Returning to the WWF as a heel, Bam Bam Bigelow beat Jerry Fox, but was cheered by the crowd. Also new to the WWF, Damian Demento (Mondo Kleen) beat Joey Maggs. He looked good, but his ring work was a different story. Jim Brunzell beat Spike Jones. Headshrinkers beat Joe Anderson & Kevin Kruger. In a heavyweight title match for SNME, Bret Hart beat Papa Shango by submission with the sharpshooter. Also taped for SNME, Randy Savage & Ultimate Warrior beat Money Inc by countout as Jimmy Hart, DiBiase, and IRS once again walked out. Crush beat Red Tyler. Mean Gene Okerlund conducted a live interview with Ric Flair & Razor Ramon, as they talked about their Survivor Series match with Warrior & Savage. Flair also stated that the Michaels-Hart match at the Series wouldn't be for the heavyweight title because he was going to get the title back from Bret before the PPV. Yokazena beat Mark Morgan. Mean Gene then interviewed Marty Jannetty who said he had been out for a while because of an injury he had suffered when he was thrown through the glass by Shawn Michaels on The Barber Shop. He also apologized for hitting Sherri Martel (he didn't say Sensational, he said Martel- it will probably be edited out) with her mirror and he said that he had called her and told her he was sorry. He talked about how Shawn hasn't called Sherri since that happened to find out how she's doing. This looks like the beginning of Sherri's face turn. Next, Razor Ramon beat Gary Gibson and was slapping him around after the bout when Bob Backlund ran in the ring and made the save. Bret Hart beat Virgil by submission with the sharpshooter in a face vs face matchup. In another interview, Michaels stated that he's too busy to call Sherri to see how she's doing, but said he would get around to it someday and that she should be waiting by the phone for his call. Koko B. Ware beat Louie Spicollie. Bob Backlund beat Tom Stone. Warrior beat Shango. Paul Bearer interviewed Razor Ramon on another Funeral Parlor and Razor talked about how he wants to get in the ring with The Undertaker. High Energy beat WT Jones & Barry Horowitz. Max Moon beat Brian Costello. Jim Duggan beat Dusty Wolfe. IC Champion Shawn Michaels beat a jobber. Tatanka beat Louie Spicollie. Razor Ramon beat Savage by countout. Warrior pinned Nailz (sub for Flair) in a minute.

Wrestling Challenge TV tapings took place the next day at the Louisville Gardens in Louisville, Kentucky, in front of about 6,000 fans. The following is a full rundown of the events that took place on that night of 10/28: Herman the German (came from Germany) beat Louie Spicollie. Next was a live interview with Nasty Boy Jerry Sags that was conducted by Howard Finkel. Sags talked about how himself and Brian Knobbs are going to get rid of Jimmy Hart and Money Inc. Jim Powers beat Brian Lee (works for Jim Cornette's Smoky Mountain Wrestling). Lance Cassidy (Steve Armstrong) pinned Skinner. Virgil pinned Mike Kramer. Razor Ramon pinned Mark Morgan and Ramon was slapping around Morgan after the match when Bob Backlund ran in and made the save. Jerry Sags beat Beau Beverly with an elbow off the top rope. Berzerker beat John Hall. Backlund beat Brian Costello. Nailz beat Jerry Jackson. Tatanka beat Tom Stone. Papa Shango beat Powers. IC Champion Shawn Michaels (no Sherri) beat Virgil. Jeff Jarrett beat Rick Martel with a bulldog. Crush beat Brian Costello. Yokozuna beat Mitch Mitchell. Tatanka beat Shango by DQ when Papa brought in his firing voodoo stick. Money Inc beat Joe Anderson & Rock Warner. British Bulldog pinned Barry Horowitz. Lance Cassidy beat Brooklyn Brawler. Max Moon pinned WT Jones. Yokozuna pinned Buck Zumhofe. Marty Jannetty beat Louie Spicollie with a fist off the top rope. Then, Howard Finkel hosted a live interview with Kimchee, Harvey Wippleman, and Kamala. Wippleman was mouthing off at Finkel, causing him to grab Harvey by the neck. Finkel was then knocked out by a chop from Kamala. Then, unbelievably, Kamala splashed Finkel, who did a stretcher job! No joke. If you don't believe that, you'll have trouble believing this. Matt Borne, who recently wrestled as Big Josh in WCW, frequently came out during several heel squash matches dressed in a clown outfit. He would walk around through the crowd, annoying them by dumping water on them and hitting them with his rubber mallet. Apparently he's going to be wrestling in the near future and will be a "heel clown." We should have known this would evolve someday as Vince has come up with everything else you can think of. What's next? Davey Boy Smith beat Berzerker. Bob Backlund beat Repo Man. Terry Taylor pinned Jim Brunzell. Razor Ramon beat Randy Savage by countout. Crush beat Kevin Kruger. Headshrinkers

beat Dan Robbins & John Lars. Damian Demento (Mondo Kleen) beat Jim Brunzell. Marty Jannetty beat Mike Jones (Virgil's real name). Rick Martel beat Jerry Jackson. Bret Hart beat Kamala. Ultimate Warrior beat Nailz.

Ric Flair had his broken nerve endings in his ear checked out and the doctors informed him that he won't be able to wrestle for the next month and possibly longer. He will not wrestle again until Survivor Series, which he'll be doing against doctor's orders. The Undertaker is also out of action as he had injured his shoulder and he just had it operated on, but is doing okay. He definitely won't wrestle until Survivor Series, if he is ready then. Nasty Boy Brian Knobbs is still recuperating from a knee injury.

Because of the injuries discussed in the last paragraph and due to poor ticket sales, the WWF has canceled many of their house shows scheduled for the weekend of 10/31. House shows were canceled in Monroe, Louisiana (10/30), Memphis, Tennessee (10/31), Nashville, Tennessee (11/1), and Huntsville, Alabama (11/1). Many of the top draws on these shows are unable to wrestle: Flair, Undertaker, Animal (he quit), Brian Knobbs, and possibly The Ultimate Warrior as his position with the company is now a day to day situation. It is very possible that there will be more shows canceled in the next few weeks. The WWF contacted most of those arenas listed above on 10/22 to notify them of the cancelations and that is the day they found out about Flair's condition.

The scheduled shows on 10/18 in Binghamton and Rochester, NY, were canceled because both of talent in the main event Flair was unable to work because of his ear and Warrior couldn't work them because there was a death in his family.

The Royal Rumble will take place on Sat. 1/24/93 at 1pm Pacific Time from the Arco Arena in Sacramento, California. Upcoming TV tapings are on 11/23 in Erie, PA, and on 11/24 in Dayton, OH. Subsequent TV tapings are on 12/14 in Green Bay, WI, and on 12/15 in Madison, WI.

WWF in Evansville, IN, on 10/31 before 1,700 fans and at the Show Me Center in Cape Girardeau, MO, on 11/1 before a sold out crowd of 3,500: Max Moon beat Brawler. Cassidy beat Skinner. Crush (sub for Bossman) beat Kamala. Ramon beat Savage by countout. Beverlies beat High Energy when Beau pinned Ware. Tatanka beat Repo. Bret Hart beat Shango.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

The Halloween Havoc PPV has been drilled by various newsletters, fans, wrestlers, and even Turner's own employees. Therefore, there is no sense in dwelling on its' tragedies in this sheet because you've probably read about it way too much already and you can form your own opinion on what you saw. To sum it up, Halloween Havoc really hit the fan. The sad part about it is the picture of WCW for beyond this event is fading every minute. Dave Meltzer made the following statement in his 11/2 Wrestling Observer Newsletter; "The wrestling business is in a tunnel and there is no sign of light at the end." This is very sad to think about, but is painfully true. Wrestling is not in a recession, it's in a depression, as each and every wrestler, promoter, and fan is feeling the effect of the current state wrestling is in. Post Havoc house show attendances are bobbing around in the hundreds: 350, 500, 950, 800, just to name a few. How much worse can it get? Something must be done to get this group and the whole business back on it's feet and on the road to recovery. And this must be done soon. The next couple weeks of TV and Starrcade will be very important to the viability of this company. We will all be watching closely to see if things improve or sink even lower. We pray for a recovery.

At Center Stage in Atlanta on 11/2, they taped Saturday Night, which will air on 11/7. Jake Roberts did color with Jim Ross. Kensuke Sasaki, Johnny B. Badd, Steve Austin, and Steve Williams (played to the crowd as a face) wrestled squash matches. Badd was doing an interview when, once again, Scotty Flamingo came out (wearing makeup) and they argued who was the prettiest man in WCW. Flamingo nailed Badd with a roll of coins and left him laying. Center Stage regular jobber Bob Cook beat Joey Maggs and the cameras were rolling for this match that made no sense. Erik Watts beat Michael Hayes (Paul E. in corner). Then Paul E. did an interview where he complained that Erik was getting breaks because his father's in charge of WCW (why would he think that??). Then he stated that he could run WCW a lot better than Bill Watts is, who came out and told Paul E. that he would have to wrestle Madusa at the Clash with one of his arms tied behind his back. Then, Robby Walker (Ron Simmons in his corner) beat Buddy Lee Parker. Their champion with a jobber? They were then interviewed and Simmons said that he was going to help Walker get revenge on Cactus, Barbarian, and Atlas for the beating they gave Walker. Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat beat Shanghai Pierce & Tex Slazenger. For the King of Cable tourney, Rick Rude beat Barry Windham and Sting beat Brian Pillman (said to have been good). Ricky Steamboat then came out during a Big Van Vader-Harley Race interview and said that he was going to get revenge for the jobber that got his back broken by Vader. Enough is enough with the mixing of the top babyfaces and unknown jobbers.

Terry Gordy, who was scheduled to work the Havoc PPV, has quit WCW. He flew back from Japan on 10/24 and was supposed to take a flight the next morning to Philadelphia from his home near Chattanooga, TN. He decided to stay home and retire from the US wrestling scene. This was a decision that he and his wife had been thinking about for a while now. He works a lot in Japan and makes plenty of money, not needing to work in the US. He wants to decrease some of his travel and is content with his decision. Steve Williams will stay with WCW until he completes his obligated dates for the company and then he will decide from there. He would make a great opponent for Ron Simmons, but he'll probably leave if he's not promised a push.

The Steiners are pretty much history with WCW as Rick is still injured and Scott is out due to contract negotiating problems. Their contracts are up in December and expect them to leave. It is rumored that they will work for New Japan Pro Wrestling, but the WWF is still a possibility. WCW has a problem though, other than losing one of the best tag teams in wrestling today, if not the best now that LOD has broken up, Scott is their TV Champion and he probably won't do the job to get the belt off of him. If that

happens, Watts just might get rid of the TV title, just like what he did with the light-heavyweight division.

Sid Justice flew down to Atlanta last week and met with Bill Watts at the WCW offices. No agreement was reached yet as Sid Eudy still hasn't gotten his full release from WWF. But, both Watts and Sid are interested in working together.

WCW Halloween Havoc at the Civic Center in Philadelphia, PA, on 10/25 in front of about 7,200 (4,700 paid) people: Van Hammer & Superstar Erik Watts beat Vinnie Vegas & Dallas Page when Watts pinned Page. Shane Douglas, Johnny Gunn, Tom Zenk beat Michael Hayes, Arn Anderson, Bobby Eaton when Gunn pinned Hayes. Ricky Steamboat beat Brian Pillman. Big Van Vader beat Nikita Koloff. Dustin Rhodes & Barry Windham wrestled Steve Williams & Steve Austin to a time limit draw. Madusa kicked the heck out of Paul E. after he insulted her, which sets up an 11/18 Clash match between Paul E. (with one hand tied behind his back) and Madusa. Rick Rude beat Masa Chono by DQ when referee Harley Race DQ-ed Chono for throwing Rude over the top rope. Ron Simmons beat Barbarian. Sting pinned Jake Roberts and the snake took a bite out of Jake's face after the match.

WCW at the Shakamak High School in Jasonville, IN, on 10/28 with 350 fans: Erik Watts beat Scotty Flamingo. Steve Austin beat Robbie Walker. Brian Pillman beat Marcus Bagwell (Brad Armstrong in corner). Kensuke Sasaki beat Dallas Page. Nikita Koloff, Van Hammer (ribs are taped up), Shane Douglas (limping badly) beat Tony Atlas, Barbarian, Rick Rude when Koloff pinned Atlas. Big Van Vader beat Tom Zenk. Dustin Rhodes & Barry Windham beat Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson when Dustin pinned Eaton after a bulldog. Sting pinned Jake Roberts after Jake missed a running knee-lift.

WCW at the Civic Center in Danville, IL, on 10/29 before about 500 fans: Watts beat Flamingo. Pillman beat Robbie Walker. Sasaki beat Page. Austin & Vader beat Bagwell & Tom Zenk when Vader splashed and pinned Bagwell. Shane Douglas, Van Hammer, Sting beat Cactus Jack, Roberts, Atlas when Sting pinned Cactus. Rude pinned Koloff. Rhodes & Windham beat Anderson & Eaton when Dustin pinned Eaton.

WCW at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago, IL, on 10/31 in front of about 950 fans: Watts beat Flamingo. Tom Zenk beat Tony Atlas. Page beat Van Hammer. Anderson & Eaton beat Rhodes & Windham. Rude & Vader beat Koloff & Sasaki when Vader pinned Koloff after a splash and Vader cursed out a fan after the match. Douglas beat Pillman. Ron Simmons pinned Barbarian and then they teased a breakup between Barbarian & Cactus Jack, but nothing came out of it.

FLYER FAN FARE

If you would like the November/December calendar of all upcoming WWF events, simply send two stamps to the Flyer and be sure to enclose your address so we can mail you it.

The Shenanumake Post is a new comedy sheet that has just hit the scene. This 12 page newsletter is available for $2 per issue and is written by Jon Horton, Scott Hudson, and Steve Prazak at 2215-I Lake Park Drive, Smyrna, GA 30080.

While a new sheet has hit the scene, another one is disbanding. Andrew Goldberger is distancing himself from the wrestling business and his From The Ring newsletter is ceasing publication. He is putting together one final piece of work, a 60+ page compilation of all the articles that he has published in his newsletter. These articles are unique, in that each is written by an influential person in the business, including Jim Cornette, Steve Williams, and Dutch Mantell. This book is available to Flyer subscribers for only $7. Send all inquiries to PO Box 6, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776. Good luck with future endeavors, Andrew.

WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

Each issue comes with news from WWF-WCW-Indies, results, a great color photo, plus interviews with:

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Issue #9- Aug 15: Bruno Sammartino -Part II
Issue #10- Aug 29: Terry Taylor -Part I
Issue #11-Sept 12: Hawk and Terry Taylor -Part II
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